

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 12-17, 19-21, 28-30 and 45-48 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 12-17, 19-21, 28-30 and 45-48 have been rejected.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 12-17, 19-21, 28-30, 45, 46 and 48 have been amended.

Claims 49 and 50 have been added.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,804,657 issued to Sultan ("Sultan"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

While not conceding that Sultan qualifies as prior art, but instead to expedite prosecution, Applicants have chosen to traverse the rejection by amending the claims as presented above. Applicant reserves the right, for example, in a continuing application, to establish that Sultan does not qualify as prior art as to an invention embodiment previously, currently, or subsequently claimed.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 12, 15, 28, 45 and 48 to at least include a limitation related to generating a forecast series including the claimed identified information and using that forecast series to generate a forecast. In Claims 1, 12, 15 and 28, the claimed forecast series block is configured to generate the forecast series. Associated dependent claims depending upon these independent claims have also been amended to provide consistent language. Applicants submit that these limitations find support within the

present Application at least in Figures 2 & 3 and associated text at pp. 9-12, and therefore do not add new matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited sections of Sultan do not provide disclosure of generation of a forecast series that includes the various identified information and that is used in the generation of an associated forecast, as provided in the amended claims. The cited sections of Sultan purportedly disclose “real-time” generation of forecasts. *See, e.g.*, Sultan 2:8-10 (“An object of the present invention, therefore, is to provide methods and systems for generating real-time sales forecasts upon demand); *see also* Sultan 12:16-19. These “real-time” forecasts are disclosed to be performed by issuing a query to a database that Sultan discloses to contain account representative forecast information. *See, e.g.*, Sultan 9:5-25. Applicants respectfully submit that such a system of querying a database has no need for generation of a forecast series containing the identified information provided in the amended claims.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants request Examiner’s reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections as to those claims and an indication of the allowability of same.


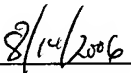
Applicants have further amended the various claims to correct formal issues with those claims as well as to correct any antecedent basis issues introduced by the amendment of claims upon which a dependent claim depends. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not narrow the scope of these claims nor do these amendments add new matter to the Application.

Applicants have also amended Claim 30 to correct the dependency objected to in the Final Office Action. In light of this amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been rendered moot.

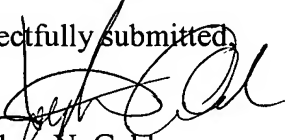
Applicants have also added Claims 49 and 50. Claim 49 is dependent upon Claim 1 and can find support at least at page 12 of the Application. Claim 50 is independent and can find support at least in pages 9-12 of the Application. Given that these claims find support in the Application as filed, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5090.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 14, 2006.	
	
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